

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JANUARY 17, 2021 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.  
RECTOR

THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING  
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## **Sunday Masses**

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm

## **Weekday Masses**

Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm

Saturday - 8:00am

## **Reconciliation**

Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm

Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm

## **Adoration**

Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

## **Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!**

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, we welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the Cathedral Weekly to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.

Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or home-bound, to contact the Parish Office or Sr. Francella at 217-522-3342 x 142.



## I've Been Here Before

As you are likely aware by now, the priests of the Cathedral (minus Bishop Paprocki and Father Peter who were away at the time) had to go into quarantine due to close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. The first day or two of quarantine involved getting adjusted to a new, albeit temporary, way of life. But after settling into a routine, I found myself thinking: "I've been here before."

Now, this is my first (and hopefully last) time of being in quarantine, but I could not help but feel like there was something very familiar about this experience. The "here" to which I have been is the experience of living life as a priest physically separated from the faithful. In particular, it is the experience of not being able to celebrate Mass with the people physically present that strikes me, something I had to endure for nearly three months this past Spring. Of course, during that time, I still celebrated Mass every day and even though people (including my mom in Texas) joined me every day virtually, it just was not the same. As I am in this situation again (though thankfully for a shorter length of time), I continue to celebrate Mass every day, knowing that doing so is more than just a personal devotion, but that every Mass benefits the entire Church regardless of who is present. Nevertheless, it is hard to escape that unsettling feeling.

However, lest I let my feelings have the final say, I am also reminded of the words of St. Paul: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) The "good" that the Lord is working to bring about in this experience for me is the reminder of something that we Catholics (priests included) can sometimes overlook, namely, that what takes place at Mass far exceeds what we see, hear, or feel. In his last Encyclical Letter, Pope St. John Paul II addressed this very point:

*This is an aspect of the Eucharist which merits greater attention: in celebrating the sacrifice of the Lamb, we are united to the heavenly "liturgy" and become part of that great multitude which cries out: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev 7:10). The Eucharist is truly a glimpse of heaven appearing on earth. It is a glorious ray of the heavenly Jerusalem which pierces the clouds of our history and lights up our journey. (Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 19).*

I know that when I return from quarantine, I will be filled with joy at the opportunity once again to celebrate Mass with and for the faithful physically present. At the same time, I will have a greater awareness of how, at each Mass, Heaven and earth unite and we join with the whole host of Heaven in praising God. I pray that each of us will come to better appreciate how truly remarkable each and every Mass is, no matter how large or small.

*Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.*

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, January 18

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - Sophia E. Bartoletti  
(Bartoletti Family)

### Tuesday, January 19

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)

### Wednesday, January 20

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - Cheryl Broughton  
(Carl & Lou Ann Corrigan)

### Thursday, January 21

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - Diana J. Schumacher  
(Daniel J. Schumacher)

### Friday, January 22

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - Dorothy Huber  
(The Huber Family)

### Saturday, January 23

8am - Catherine Ponce  
(Linda Sabol)

4pm - For the People

### Sunday, January 24

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)

10am - Pius Onyejaju Chineke  
(The Anselment Family)

5pm - Frank Orris, Jr.  
(Phil & Celeste Furmanek)





## Transubstantiation

Transubstantiation may be the fanciest word that I ever use with somewhat regularity. I was not sure about the wisdom of writing my article on this word because it's a little technical, but then I remembered that I taught this word to some first- and second-graders one summer, so if they can handle, so can we.

This word began to be used by Catholic theologians in the 1200's, especially St. Thomas Aquinas, to describe what happens when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus at Mass. Up until this time, theologians did not have a word for what happens, because what happens at Mass does not happen anywhere else: one thing is changed into another without the appearance changing. Because this had never been a part of our human experience, there was no word to describe it. The word "transformation" gets at the idea, but transformation simply refers to the visual form of something; the form or image of something is changed. Catholics wanted to have a word to describe the events of Mass in a more exact way.

As I wrote last week, Catholics have always reflected on the question from scripture, "How can this man give us his body to eat?" Some ask this question in disbelief; some ask it in faith. The Church wanted to help us understand Jesus' gift of the Eucharist to us in a fuller way. So, someone had to invent a new term! Transubstantiation is the word that theologians began to use to describe what happens when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. The substance (what something is) of the bread and wine is changed into the substance of body and blood, while there is no change in the shape, size, color, taste, or location of the object itself. If somebody has a gluten intolerance, he or she will still have the same effects from consuming the Eucharist. Consuming too much of the Blood of Christ will also have the same effect as drinking too much wine. (Every once in a great while, God also changes the shape and appearance of the Eucharist into that of body and blood. This is the topic for a future column.)

Some Christians did not like the use of this new term because it seemed overly technical, and they thought that people with strong faith should not worry about technicalities. However, the Church disagreed and officially adopted this term at the Council of Trent (1545-1563) to describe what happens during the Consecration at Mass. If you care to read it, here is what the Council declared:

"But since Christ our Redeemer declared that to be truly His own body which He offered under the form of bread, it has, therefore, always been a firm belief in the Church of God, and this holy council now declares it anew, that by the consecration of the bread and wine a change is brought about of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ Our Lord, and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of His Blood. This change the holy Catholic Church properly and appropriately calls transubstantiation."<sup>[1]</sup>

It really is an awesome belief – that when we receive the Eucharist at Mass, we receive the entirety of God into our bodies and into our hearts. This makes us, for a few minutes, real tabernacles, just as we find in every Catholic Church. We carry God within us as we leave Mass and go out into the world. Tabernacles are usually embellished with gold plating and beautiful artwork to show the beauty of Jesus who dwells inside. We should be the same. Our actions and whole way of being should be impacted by Who we carry inside of us. How can we be better tabernacles for Jesus?

*Father Dominic Vahling is a newly ordained priest. He serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and as co-chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.*



<sup>[1]</sup> Quote taken from The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent, trans. By Reverend H.J. Schroeder. (Tan Books: Charlotte, North Carolina. 1978.)

## Stewardship of Treasure

Collection numbers for the weekend of January 9th and 10th were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

Online Giving: If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit our website. Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



## St. Sebastian: One Eucharistic Faith

**Feast Day: January 20th**

We all know the story of St. Sebastian. Who? Soldier, in the Praetorian Guard of Diocletian. What? Christian, converting others. Where? From Gaul, now in Rome. When? 300s. Why? ...

**Why?**

Why did a sturdy, young man, in the prime of his life, rising towards the highest ranks of the Roman army, make such a big deal out of his faith that he got himself killed for it? Sebastian knew Diocletian was not a fan of

Christians, and was looking for somebody to scapegoat and throw the power of Rome against. He knew, as a Praetorian guard, that his actions were going to be doubly scrutinized for fidelity to the emperor. He knew that Marcus and Marcellian, twins also in the guard, and deacons in the Church, had been imprisoned after refusing the usual sacrifices. And yet, when the twins' affluent parents, Tranquillinus and Martia, came to try and convince their sons to just offer the incense and not get themselves killed, Sebastian converted them, and then he converted the prefect, Chromatius, who had imprisoned them to the true faith.

**Why??**

Diocletian had Sebastian tied to a stake and shot at for target practice. He survived! He came back to Diocletian and called him out for his persecution of Christians! The emperor, shocked that he was alive, and that this minion had the gall to confront his emperor, had him beaten to death and thrown in a sewer. This time, the crown of martyrdom was granted to him.

**Why???**

Why make a scene? Why convert others to the faith when it was just going to get them, and him, killed? Why go back after you survive martyrdom the first time around? Why not just go along with the incense thing, drop a pinch on the charcoal, say a prayer to Jesus under your breath, and live a normal life?

Because as Christians *"yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."* (1 Cor 8:6). Perhaps you have heard those words before? Perhaps you have not realized that Paul is taking the most important prayer of the Jewish faith, the shema, the great prayer professing belief in one God – *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might"*. (Dt 6:4) – and St. Paul finds Jesus within that prayer. It is a breathtaking, marvelous, astonishing twist in the saga of salvation history. God is one, and God is three.

Everything the Jews practiced – keeping the sabbath holy, circumcision of their sons, following the dietary laws, reciting daily prayers and psalms, following the decalogue and torah – all these were cultural means of maintaining their worship of the one true God. As Christians, we do not have such cultural norms, instead, we, from every culture under heaven, must conform our lives completely to Christ, Our Lord.

*Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*(Ephesians 2:5-11)*

**Why?** Because every time we receive Holy Communion, we are giving our lives as living sacrifices in union with the one sacrifice of Christ. We are offering ourselves *crucified with Christ* to the one true God, committing ourselves to adoring Him *alone*. We choose to announce Him as the *only* true King, and to conform our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies, to be like His, and to *be* His *alone*!

St. Sebastian is the patron saint of soldiers, athletes, and *plague-victims*. His Eucharistic faith, His Eucharistic commitment, His Eucharistic self-sacrifice must be an example to all of us of our Eucharistic belief in One God, and a reminder that every day offers us the chance to recommit ourselves to that belief.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin once was with Bishop for a Confirmation and realized that 6 of the young guys, who had all conveniently, and humorously, arrayed themselves in the front row, had all taken St. Sebastian as their Confirmation patron. My usual vocation spiel immediately changed as I challenged those guys, and myself, to be willing to lay down our lives for our One Lord.*



Pedro Orrente, San Sebastián, 1616, oil on canvas, Valencia Cathedral. Public Domain.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Mask Mandate in Effect

As you may be aware, the Mayor of Springfield has issued a Mask Mandate for all public spaces in the City of Springfield, which includes religious houses of worship. The mandate requires that masks be worn at all times when in a public space. The mayor has indicated that those individuals who are in violation of this mandate will be assessed a \$50 fine for each violation, and the institution (that is, this church) will be assessed a \$250 fine for the first offense, with subsequent offenses incurring a \$500 fine. The mandate went into effect on November 18. Please be advised that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. Thank you for your cooperation in observing this mandate here at the Cathedral.

### Virtual Nativity Festival at the Cathedral

Did you miss our virtual nativity festival at the Cathedral? Don't worry - you can view each nativity scene and the story that went along with each on our Facebook page in our 2020 Virtual Nativity Festival photo album!

### No Neighbor Left Behind

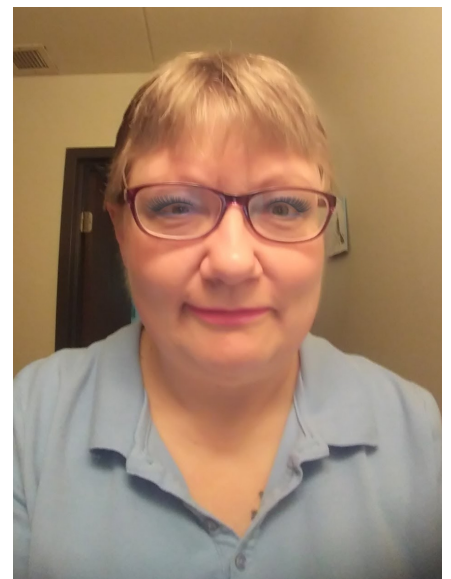
As COVID-19 cases rise in our community, Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 would like to remind parishioners "No Neighbor Left Behind". If you or someone you know needs assistance in picking up groceries, prescriptions, or getting errands run, please reach out to Grand Knight Nick Gray at [info.kofc16126@gmail.com](mailto:info.kofc16126@gmail.com) or contact any member of the Cathedral staff. We have a group of Knights who are willing to assist those in our community at a higher risk for COVID-19.

### RCIA Introductions

Over the next couple of weekends, we will be introducing those who are currently going through RCIA here at the Cathedral. Please keep them in your prayers, as they embark on the journey of Christian Initiation, and that they may welcome into their hearts the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus, with joy, peace and hope.

### Meet Jan Montgomery

I am a widow and have lived my whole life in Springfield. I have been a life-long Christian but the churches I attended didn't really fill my soul, and I always felt like I was missing something. It has been in my heart for quite some time to look into the Catholic faith, but for whatever reason it didn't work out until I called the Cathedral and learned about starting RCIA. I have felt very welcomed by the parish. It is my desire to be Catholic and I feel like I have a mission of a calling to do something but I don't know what it is yet. I know that in God's good timing I will. God willing I will become Catholic in the Spring and a member of the parish. I feel blessed to have found the Cathedral.



# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### **Second Collection: Church in Latin America January 23rd and 24th**

Soon our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. This national collection supports many pastoral projects that benefit the faithful in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the mountains of northeastern Colombia, on the border with Venezuela, the Diocese of Cucuta has been a migration point for needy Venezuelan refugees coming in search of food, medicine, and daily necessities. For several years, the diocese's welcome centers have served more than 1,000 meals each day to hungry migrants. The primary center, at Casa de Paso Divina Providencia, has been addressing the needs of these refugees with diocesan resources as well as assistance from local businesses, charities, and parishes.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America, in solidarity with these vulnerable refugees and the local diocese serving them, provided much-needed assistance to ensure that Casa de Paso Divina Providencia can continue its work of hospitality and mercy. Your contribution to the collection not only supports and sustains these invaluable efforts but also allows you to stand in closer unity with refugees and those serving them.

Please be generous toward the collection and take this opportunity to share your faith with our sisters and brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

You can make a donation in one of the following ways:

Online: Make a one-time donation on the Cathedral's website at <https://spicathedral.org/give-online/>, and specify that your donation is for the Church in Latin America Collection.

Envelopes: Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify that the second check is for the Church in Latin America Collection.

Mail: Send your donation to the Parish Office (524 E. Lawrence Ave, Springfield, IL 62703).

### **Respect Life Rally**

Springfield Right to Life's annual Respect Life Rally will be held at 2pm on Sunday, January 24th at Calvary Church at 1730 West Jefferson in the parking lot. Stay in your vehicle and tune in on your radio to hear our pro-life speakers inspire our community to "let the walls fall" as they did in Jericho!

### **9 Days for Life**

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, 9 Days for Life, Thursday, January 21 – Friday, January 29. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com)!

### **Annual Signature Ad Campaign**

Due to COVID and the subsequent challenges to collecting signatures, we will not be having the annual Signature Ad Campaign this year. Please look for a pro-life ad in the State Journal Register announcing SRTL's upcoming events and programs.